





Device gives quick spectrum check

by Clive Cookson science correspondent

Collaboration between chemists at the University of East Anglia and a scientific instruments firm has produced a powerful new machine that promises to give researchers new insights into the course of fast chemical reactions.

Cells are mixed very rapidly by the conventional "stopped flow" technique. The instrument then measures series of spectra of the reaction tube. Each spectrum is completed within one tenth of a second and the next one within a thousandth of a second.



Island women: a survey.

Isles of northern research

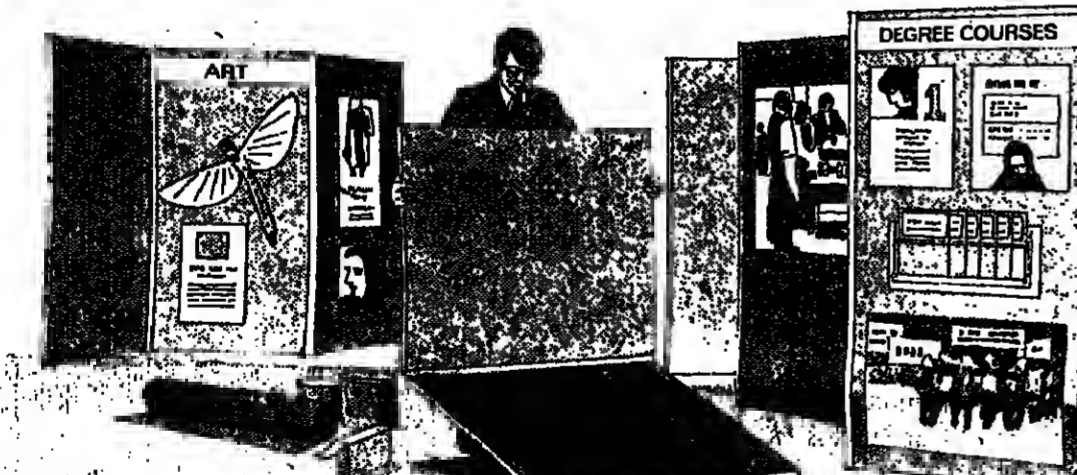
A picture of the Shetlands, Orkneys and Western Isles seen by inquisitive social scientists emerges from the latest compilation of research in North Scotland.

Professor Robert Masre, a sociologist from Aberdeen and Mr R. J. Ardern, the librarian at the Highlands and Islands Development Board in Inverness, list current research in education, economics, planning, politics and sociology.

The editors say there is a danger of "research saturation" due to the interest shown in North Sea oil developments.

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Tenement project could help both city and single people

by Frances Gibb

Catering for the housing needs of the single working person is being proposed by a team of researchers as one way to solve two major problems of city centres: the aging population and the deterioration of old tenement blocks.

While engaged on a project to rehabilitate old tenement property in central city areas a group of post-graduate architects from the joint architecture department at Heriot-Watt University and Edinburgh College of Art decided it could be a particularly attractive to single people.

Single people, the team argues, are better able to adapt to "bright" areas than married couples with children who need amenities these areas do not provide.

With a grant of £1,000 from the Royal Institute of British Architects the team of three postgraduates, under the direction of Miss Catherine Forthage have already sent some 3,000 questionnaires throughout Edinburgh to personnel and welfare officers of major employers.

£41,000 grant expands study of neutron radiation effects

Research at Dundee University into the biological effects of neutron radiation is to be expanded with the help of a £41,000 grant from Euratom and the International Atomic Agency.

The work is of particular interest because of the promise neutron beams are showing in radiotherapy with cancer, as an alternative to X-rays. The Medical Research Council has already financed the installation of neutron beam machines at several cancer therapy centres, so that promising preliminary results can be extended by further clinical trials.

Neutrons cause more biological damage than the same dose of X-rays, and the Dundee team, led by Dr David Watt, are seeking a detailed explanation of this behaviour. The results will be important for radiation protection purposes as well as for cancer treatment.

Miners' tales collected

Old miners, who started work as boys in the days of hand-pumped steam engines, are being prompted throughout the East Midlands for their recollections. The investigation is being carried out by students of Chesterfield College of Art and Design under commission from the National Coal Board's Mining Museum at Lund Hall, near Retford, Nottinghamshire.

An NCB spokesman explained: "The idea is to record first-hand accounts of conditions of work and how men lived on the wage they received in decades past, while their faces are still within living memory. Video and tape recordings are being used as well as photographs."

Seven retired miners, aged between 70 and 80, who have all had more than 50 years underground service, have already taken part.

New handbook on foreign institutes

The British Academy has published a new handbook giving details of the nine research institutes which it supports overseas. These range from the British Institute in Eastern Africa to the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem which have been founded since 1910 to promote research in archaeology, anthropology, history and other fields.

The handbook is available from the British Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0NS.

How men at top make decisions

A team of social scientists at the University of York is receiving a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council for a study of decision-making by top managers and executives.

On the other hand

Not his lunch pines

Evidence mounts that Dr Spinner of New College, Oxford did not do, or at least not very often, that for which he is famous, far from his singing mystery lectures and leaving by the front door. It appears that he once said: "Food stays was borrowed from Bohlyon" and let legend do the rest.



Dr Spinner and "Frank"

The latest information comes from Sir William Hayter, the subject of a former warden of New College, whose biography Spenser (W. H. Allen £4.95) shows what the great man was doing in the long hours when he should have been making Spenserians. For instance, he married a woman whom he invited upon calling "Frank" which indicates confusion somewhere. Also, he was an alumnus which caused some unwitting opposition when, as a young man, he stood for a fellowship. "I don't lie a bit for this position", one college member is reported to have said of the white-haired applicant. It is then that New College being "reformed" as saying something does not count for much.

Among the alumni who are cherished by posterity for things they probably did not say at all is the Rev J. E. Sewell, a college fellow who, when faced with a proposal to build baths for his inmates, said: "I am not sure that I have seen any here for eight weeks at a time."

Scream tune

Michael Dewney was a university lecturer until *The House of Morla* changed his life. Now he is a freelance composer who tomorrow night shares a concert with the other three, Mr Dewney has taught successfully at a college of education, a polytechnic and a university. In fact he would still be happily lecturing at University College, Cork if one of his religious compositions had not been used on a soundtrack for a horror film.

"It is ironic really," he says. "I wrote a setting of 'Hail Holy Queen' as a devotional work for the Roman Catholic Church. It was used in a scene where a priest is poisoned by wine in his chalice, and *The Catholic Herald* condemned it as disgusting. I now earn a small living from it which enables me to get on with my work full time."

With his new-found freedom he is composing a Queen's Jubilee march, a musical study of London and "The Carol Suite" which, in case any horror movie magicians are interested, goes its first British performance of 7.30 tomorrow evening at St John's United Reformed church, Summer Street, New Besses, under the auspices of the Association for British Music.

University novel 3: the sensitive character study

More tips on how to write your university novel. This week: how to write the sensitive people with which every campus is dripping. Our hero, Gavin, whose wife has left him after ten days marriage, goes to stay with Todd and Shakra Double-day who live in the country, and pride themselves on their sensitive understanding.

Shakra's awareness started with D. H. Lawrence, whose tedious influence is often at the root of this, and was then furthered by dimly comprehended Indian meditation techniques. In no time at all she discovered a snip, soiling long grey dresses and has not looked back since. She is into "relationships", particularly ones that go wrong and can be talked about all night over glasses at whisky. She has a barbiturate, if not common sense, and prefers *The Art of Sensual Massage* by Robert and Kbone Rappaport to *The Art of Mrs Bentons*—although had it been called *Zeit* and *The Art of Mrs Bentons* the whole picture might have been different.

Her bookshelf is full of questionable required reading like the works of Eric Von Deniken (author of *Chariot of the Gods*, *Miracle of*

This sporting life in perspective



Bryan Davies

How to explain a certain blindness in the part of our educational decision-takers to the field of sport and physical education? That the average Briton has lacked appreciation of the arts may be fair criticism but his enthusiasm for sport is surely beyond dispute.

The interesting question is, however, whether our educational system has ever responded to the child, however busy they may be at the start of their careers the child comes often with a dramatic suddenness at a point when many people are in their prime. For many, progression to a restrictive job market without a defensible skill represents a depressing future.

None of the propositions outlined above need represent heavy additional costs. There is an increasing awareness of the extent to which there is massive under-utilization of the sporting facilities of educational institutions. Both the local school whose sports hall and playing fields are closed every evening and at weekends, and the university, whose polytechnic whose facilities are used for just 30 weeks of the year are wasting substantial public assets.

The development of the colleges has created a full-time student body which has both the capacity and the determination to administer its own sporting activities. Talented staff have, therefore, not infrequently found themselves with no administrative duties which do not either duplicate the activities of student unions or stultify their progress towards autonomy. Nevertheless, in such institutions committed to educational values which relate to practical skills, courses in physical education and sport have been slow to develop.

It is time to end the curious situation where physical education forms a compulsory part of the secondary school curriculum but in further education is largely provided only for those intending subsequently to teach the subject.

Our attitude to sport is riddled with the ambivalences and anomalies of a social class. A less-blinkered society would scarcely tolerate the situation in which sports favoured by the social elite receive some recognition and support in favoured sectors of the higher educational system, while the sport of the masses, in particular Association Football, enjoys low status and receives almost no contribution from the system as a whole. Nor should we be content that our major professional sport treats its young practitioners as heroes rather than as developing adults with a right to, and access to, further education.

Moreover, in the wider society the growth of leisure is increasingly pronounced, yet the life-enhancing qualities of both the practice and appreciation of sporting skill attracts all too little interest on the part of our educators. The explosion of interest in golf and squash, to identify only the two most significant recent developments, owes almost nothing to initiatives generated in our educational institutions. We should no longer be content with the variety matches and the Boat Race as the symbols of education's interest in sport but concentrate on developing our educational facilities to provide physical education for all to the highest level of their talents.

ing to develop that talent in further and higher education, the latter are relatively ignored by the educational world.

These developments may also contribute to the poorer goal of national self-respect in sporting performance.

That reforms are needed in a system which from the vast talent at our disposal can fashion only the present dreary standard of our national soccer team seems to me self-evident. The only provision of the England team manager with which I have ever wholeheartedly agreed is his contention that our football malaise is deep-seated and that many millions of our countrymen deserve something better.

A closer relationship between education and sport might also meet a very real need in the social development of our sportsmen themselves. The vast majority of professional sportsmen are under-educated yet nevertheless with their fair criticism but his enthusiasm for sport is surely beyond dispute.

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The Times Higher Education Supplement (London) Room 541 National Press Building Washington DC Tel.: (202) 638 6765

### MA 'slips' as it turns into job passport

As a degree becomes a prerequisite for more and more jobs in America, the pressures on an undergraduate aiming for a good job to go on to a postgraduate degree have been steadily mounting.

As a result more and more universities are offering MA degrees. Most have taken care to ensure the rigorous standards which are set down by the Council of Graduate Schools. But some have not, and the council has been concerned that quality is slipping. It has now issued a new statement to encourage better Master's degree programmes.

The statement says that the establishment of a Master's course is an undertaking not to be entered into lightly. The academic unit responsible should submit a detailed proposal nullifying the evident need and answering such questions as: Is the faculty adequate? Are there enough potential students interested in the programme? Is there a need for more personnel trained in the field as researchers, teachers or practitioners? Is there a valid intellectual need for the programme? Are resources adequate? Substantial, preferably unique reasons should exist for establishing a new programme otherwise consortia or cooperative arrangements should be sought with other universities as possible alternatives.

After establishing the need, the goals of the proposed programme should be written in specific terms, including the general long-term development plans of the institution. The statement should be included in the graduate bulletin.

Admission should be limited to a limited number of students, and the student body should be of a high academic standard. The MA should take one or two years of full-time study.

An MA should be completed within about five years of leaving school. Course work beyond five years would normally be accepted without evidence of the candidate having an up-to-date knowledge of the material covered in the out-of-date work.

A thesis had been a requirement of the MA since its inception and was traditionally a mark of advancement in knowledge. Although the thesis was not now a requirement in many MA programmes, "a component denoting creativity should be required in quality programmes".

### Soldiering on to a degree

Until comparatively recently the chances of a serving soldier getting a degree were slim. Even if he found a college near his base with sufficiently flexible hours to allow him to study in the evenings and at weekends, he was usually transferred before he could complete the course.

Five years ago the Department of Defence got together with representatives of community colleges, and the Servicemen's Opportunity College programme was born. Since then thousands of American soldiers, sailors and airmen have earned degrees which have helped them find a job on returning to civilian life or have speeded their promotion within the services.

The programme is run by about 350 designated two-year community colleges within each of the military installations. These make two special provisions for servicemen: they allow for mobility by recognizing the work done at other colleges taking part in the programme and they award academic credit for training already completed in military service.

A typical programme is run by the Northern Virginia Community College. This vast five-campus college serves the Washington suburbs and surrounding areas in an area of 100 square miles. It has a large air base in its catchment area: one for the army and one for the air force. In four years some 2,000 servicemen have taken part.

Each soldier enrolling is assigned to a college counselor, one together they design what amounts to an individual degree. This, generally a two-year associate degree awarded by all community colleges.

The college specifies that 20 per cent of the work must be completed on campus, or anywhere where the college runs courses. Much can be done by correspondence, however: there are students in Okinawa now who regularly receive tapes and cassette from Northern Virginia.

The college already has about 4,000 veterans enrolled in its normal courses, and has extensive liaison with the military.

### NY gets oodles from noodles

New York University has just made a fortune out of macaroni by selling its noodle factory.

The bizarre academic claim to pasta goes back to 1947, when a group of university graduates bought a small noodle company in Jersey City and turned over all the profits to the university's law school. Dividends then were around \$10,000 a year, but they peaked at \$2,250,000 in October when New York's president sold the booming enterprise to a California food chain, and collected \$115m.

The money has been divided between the law school, which got the \$10,000, and the rest went to the general university endowment fund.

The university will use its share to cushion itself against the hard times it sees coming in the 1980s. The law school, which is now the richest in America, will reinvest its money and aims to use it to become the best law school in the country.

### Course in human rights is 'first'

What is said to be the world's first interdisciplinary course in human rights is to be offered at the University of Akron, Ohio, next year.

The university is to use a \$20,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to develop a model course and teaching manual which will be introduced in other universities.

The undergraduate course will be based on the humanities, drawing on history, literature and philosophy. Topics will include an examination of international systems for the protection of human rights, the right to life, equality with regard to age, race and sex, the right to privacy, political and economic rights, and health. The course will also look at freedom of movement, expression, and communication throughout the world.

Dr June Burton, assistant history professor and one of the two course directors, said all previous academic consideration of human rights had been in a law school context.

### Tennessee told universities must merge

In historic and unprecedented ruling Tennessee's two state universities have been ordered by a Federal district court to merge to end racial segregation in both of them. This is thought to be the first time that a desegregation order of this kind has been issued against a higher education institution.

The court said the merger must be accomplished by July 1981. The two institutions, only a few miles apart, are the overwhelmingly white University of Tennessee in Nashville and Tennessee State University, which has mostly black students.

The original lawsuit was filed nine years ago by a group of Tennessee State supporters on the grounds that the other university had a discriminatory policy of not admitting white students, and as a result continued racial desegregation.

The ruling raises some fundamental questions about the future of what are known as historically black colleges—of which Tennessee State is one. The university, like other black colleges, was set up at a time when there were dual systems of higher as well as school education in all southern states.

It was recently it was virtually all black colleges which had a small number of white students. The student body numbers about 6,000.

The University of Tennessee is an almost exact mirror: it now has 15 per cent black students out of a total of 5,600. The major difference between the two is that Tennessee State in 1947 was an extension college for adults, and although it has become a degree-granting institution, still holds evening classes, has a large number of part-time students and caters principally for adults.

Engelmann, the local branch chairman of the National Association of Colored People, which took part in the case, said he did not think Tennessee State's character would be affected by the merger. The other university should not have been there in the first place, he said.

### The final article in our series on the tenuresystem Barrier against reform

One of the charges against the system of tenure is that it places too much emphasis on a single peer group decision at the end of the probationary period. A refusal to grant tenure is of great moment, but can be influenced by irrelevant considerations: a person's personal standing with his colleagues, academic and political resistance to his rise, and the unfortunate incident just before the tenure decision.

The result is that a negative decision is often contested. Lengthy lawsuits and unfavourable publicity damage the teacher's chances of a useful academic life, whether or not he is given a full university in academic standing.

Only a few weeks ago there was an uproar at the University of California when the Berkeley campus department of sociology refused to grant tenure to Harry Edwards, a controversial former Black Panther.

The university announced that his scholarship and academic performance were not up to standard. Mr Edwards, who arranged the protest by black athletes at the 1968 Olympics, said the real reason was political racism. He intends to challenge the decision.

There have been other well-publicized cases recently. Proponents of the tenure system say such cases are inevitable, and have been going on for years. They argue that universities have an obligation to reserve a departmental decision, and that a final decision is only made after "due process"—a thorough quasi-judicial hearing. In any case the issue is closely bound up with academic freedom, and any dispute can only be resolved by the American Association of University Professors.

But a more difficult charge to counter is that publications are of minor importance in influencing a decision on tenure, and that individual decisions are based on a committee of student body, headed by a former student body president, says much more weight should be attached to the quality of teaching. Student evaluation should be routinely used every seven years both in quality and

for a special salary scale. All considerations of the university is now made.

Some people believe that attention would be paid if there were no tenure. As an experiment, the college in Amherst, Mass., founded seven years ago, refused to grant tenure to its first cohort of faculty.

Arguing that tenure is a barrier to reform, the college's first cohort of faculty, including all teachers on three-year contracts, are now in their third year, according to the college's website.

Nearly all the teachers previously worked at the college under a tenure system. The principle of periodic college administration is that a teacher's salary should be below what he has produced. The only exception was for those who were tenured, with their own many contracts of some time.

The Hampshire experiment has been successful. The college has managed to substitute one tenure, it is almost certain that it could now be done in a similar way.

What is it to happen, says university which are being financially and have positions men may be in a position to offer them. They must be able to offer them. They must be able to offer them. They must be able to offer them.

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### Italy Minister attacks 'degrees for all' protest

ROME — As Italy's student revolt raged, the Minister of Education, Signor Franco Malfatti, said last week that the government would do its utmost for university reform.

The minister was reporting to the Senate Education Committee on the situation in the universities, many of which are occupied. Protests and demonstrations have become daily events as part of a protest against Signor Malfatti's plans for university reform. The students have also criticized the communists' and the trade unions' suggestions.

Behind the result is fear and unease caused by the massive unemployment in Italy.

Signor Malfatti said that discontent among the students was being exploited by various groups for ulterior motives. Some wanted to attack all the political parties; others claimed that the right of all to study meant the right of all to have a degree—with the inevitable destruction of the value of a university education.

There were others, he went on, who used the occasions as an excuse for fascist violence or open provocation, and for attacks on freedom of expression, on public property and on private citizens.

The latter was a reference to the professors who were rouged up. "It is our duty firmly to prevent the situation degenerating in this way," he said.

"It is our strict duty to do our utmost to further reforms and we



Signor Malfatti: "duty to further reforms"

### Bolivia Cosmic physics research has a place in the Andes

LA PAZ — Although little original research is done in Bolivia, a country which does not yet offer any postgraduate courses at any of its nine universities, there is one major exception. This is cosmic physics, where, because of geographical and physical reasons, Bolivia has one of the world's most important laboratories.

Research has been going on there for many years, and it was a British scientist, Professor Powell of Brynionn Chacaltaya, the observation station high in the Andes mountains, 35 kilometres from La Paz.

With Professor Yukawa of Japan he carried out research which led to the discovery of a new particle, the Pye 111 Meson, for which both men received Nobel Prizes for physics in 1947 and 1948 respectively.

Chacaltaya enjoys a series of advantages. Sited at 17,000 feet, atmospheric pressure is exactly half what it is at sea level, which makes the observation of the behaviour of cosmic rays easier to observe and

### Australia Preference for English authors

SYDNEY — A report prepared for the Australian University Graduates Conference suggests that universities here tend to ignore Australian writers because of a preference for English writers among university staff.

The report says that out of 18 Australian universities offering the fields of poetry, novels and drama, only six give a comprehensive BA course in Australian literature.

Written by a mature arts graduate from Macquarie University, Mrs Elfrida Maccone, the report claims that Australian authors are ignored, especially progressive writers, because of prejudice among literature tutors.

### West Germany 'Waiting time' grows as 50,000 university applicants are turned away in Germany

FRANKFURT — The Central Admission Office for West Germany's universities and colleges of education (ZVS) announced last week that 50,000 university applicants had been turned away in Germany.

The ZVS said that the number of applicants had risen to 1.2 million in 1973, a 12 per cent increase on 1972. The number of places available had fallen to 730,000, a 12 per cent decrease on 1972.

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### Individual achievement plus waiting time

The Administrative Committee of the ZVS and its chairman, the Minister of Education, have announced that the number of places available for university courses will be determined by the number of places available in each subject, and the number of places available in each subject, and the number of places available in each subject.

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Handwritten note in the bottom left corner: "الاولى 1350"



Anthony Crosland

No minister of education has ever had more influence over the development of higher education than Mr Anthony Crosland...

Agenda for Oakes

The working group on the management of the public sector of higher education was convened at a time when Mr Fred Mulley was Secretary of State...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brookings and policy studies

Sir—Your leader and David Walker's piece on policy studies (THE SUNDAY TIMES, February 11) touched on the central issue of bridging the gap between the academic world and policy-making...

The claim has been made, and largely substantiated, that much good research work has been carried out in the academic field and indeed within government itself...

The answer lies, I believe, in increasing the working contacts between government and the academic world (a relevant "figure 151" in your terms) at a variety of points in the process of policy-making...

New knowledge and new thinking, to be effective, has to be institutionalized within the institutional, political and behavioural context of government...

It implies, secondly, a concern on the part of the academics involved, for relevance, credibility and sensitivity in the working context. To ignore this context is to ignore the frequent cause of policy failure...

Thames occupation Sir—We would like to correct the misleading impression of your article headlined "Thames defies the 'overseas number' order" (THE SUNDAY TIMES, February 18)...

The great

Sir—The academic Coventry College of Education, the Department of Education, to build regional centres for the state of education...

But Frazer in his own turn had as such a distasteful influence on others as through his books and his personality...

What are the criteria for selecting and appointing a new headmaster? In such a case, how do institutions...

Conflict game Sir—Our society is a game to all the elements of the environment...

All that glitters is not gold

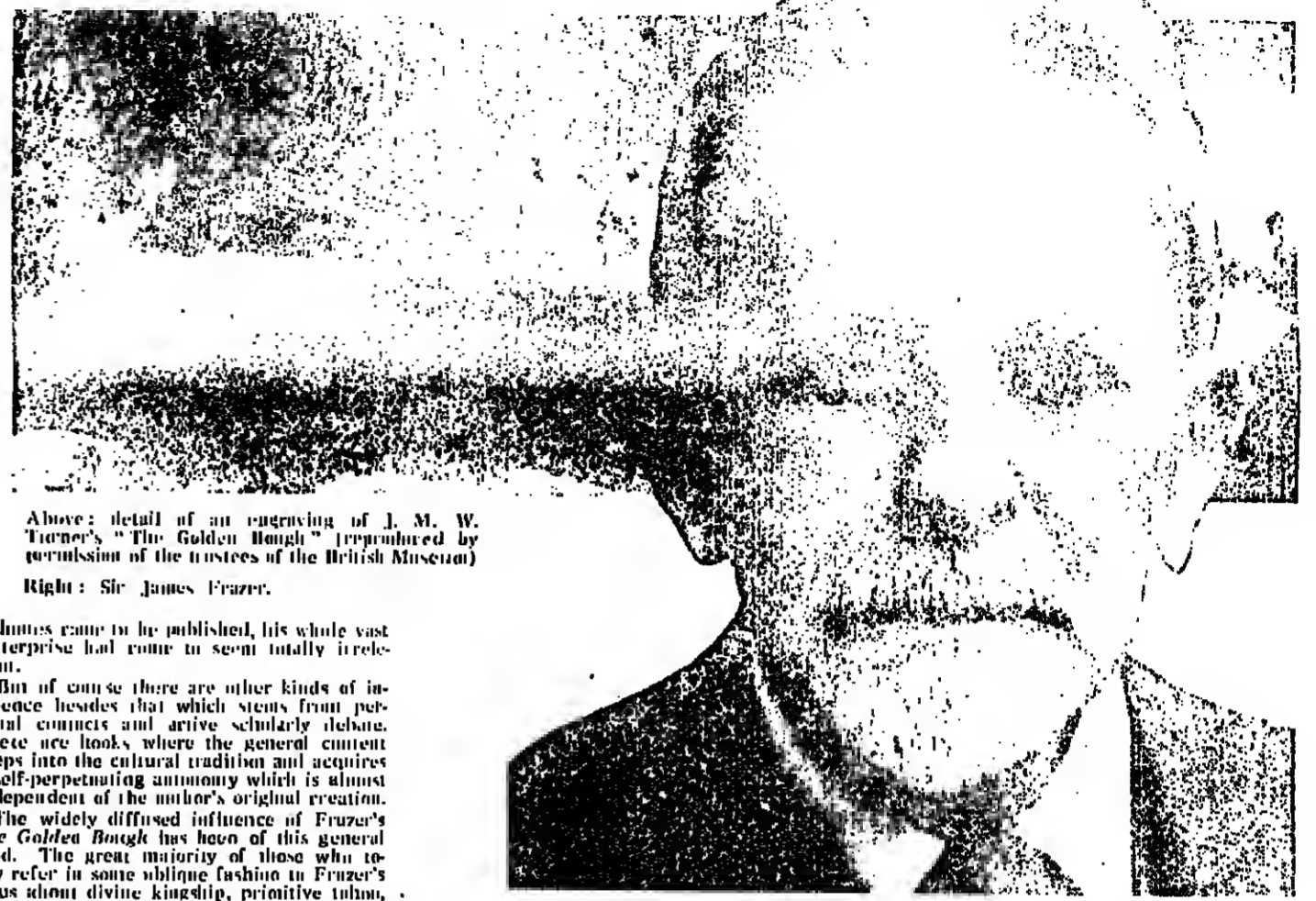
Edmund Leach assesses the reputation of Sir James Frazer, whose complete The Golden Bough has just been republished

Professional academics may influence their colleagues and members of the wider general public in a variety of ways...

From the very start of their marriage in 1893, Frazer's formidable wife made it her business to be a protective screen of censorship around her husband...

Although Macmillan continued to publish new titles in Frazer's name right through his long life, it was all terribly repetitive...

The stagnation, in Frazer's thinking was clearly linked with his isolation both from the real world of human relationships and from the stimulus of controversy...



Above: detail of an engraving of J. M. W. Turner's "The Golden Bough" (reproduced by permission of the trustees of the British Museum)

of magic and religion throughout the world. How gratifying to be assured, by an authority as high as Frazer, that such complex matters are easy to understand...

But Frazer in his own turn had as such a distasteful influence on others as through his books and his personality...

Perhaps it was just a matter of prestige. After all, Frazer was a classicist and had a Fellowship of Trinity...

Other commentators have made the point that Frazer does not really seem to have understood the innovations in anthropological thinking which Robertson-Smith introduced...

Vertical text on the left margin: 1350



BOOKS

Political Pound

Edwin Morgan
Era Pound: The Last Rower
by C. David Heymann
Faber & Faber, £5.95
ISBN 0 571 10782 6

The Cantos of Ezra Pound: The Lyric Made
by Eugene Paul Nassar
Johns Hopkins University Press, £5.15
ISBN 0 8018 1703 X

Understanding the Weapon, Understanding the Wound: Selected Writings of John Cornford with some letters
edited by Joseph Galassi
Carcanet Press, £3.90
ISBN 0 85335 152 0

Mr Heymann's book is subtitled A Political Profile, and it is a biography of Pound which concentrates on the development of his political-economic thinking, devoting most of its detail to the years from the 1930s onwards when Pound's obsessions—Social Credit, Fascism, Communism, the Jews—tended to isolate him more and more from the mainstream of literary acquaintance and criticism, with the disastrous results that are well known.

The main value of the book is quite simply in its ample documentation. Mr Heymann gained access to the FBI files on Pound and is able to print a wide range of material relating to his wartime broadcasts in Italy, his indictment for treason, and his incarceration in St Elizabeth's Hospital. A selection of his letters to Mussolini and Count Ciano is included in an appendix.

Because of the painful human interest of what Pound did and what happened to him, the fascination and the drama inherent in all this documentation cannot be denied. Almost nothing concerning him is beyond argument. As T. S. Eliot said of him, with helpful but convincing precision, he was "the sane, nor insane". Although indicted for wartime treason against the United States—and the charge, if it had been proved, would very likely have stood—the maintained everything he wrote or broadcast while he was in the hands of the Italian Fascists and his own country. Although a solid, vibrant, pathological anti-semitist runs like a vein through his work in prose and verse and really cannot be excused by hopelessly selective editing, there are few among those who know his work who can confidently say that he was not one of the most distinguished poets of his generation. And although he spoke of "democracies electing their sewage" and regarded any kind of socialism as "synonymous with imbecility", he did not come across more often as a crackpot or a crackpot than a crackpot. It is the sense of the man like Pound that the most distinguished poets of his generation. And although he spoke of "democracies electing their sewage" and regarded any kind of socialism as "synonymous with imbecility", he did not come across more often as a crackpot or a crackpot than a crackpot.

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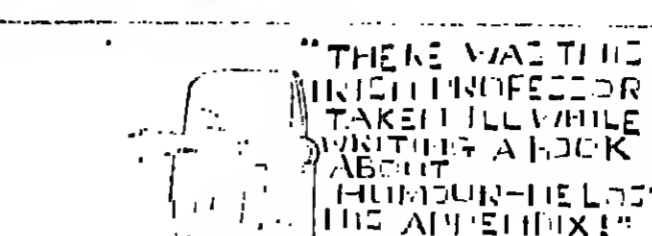
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Any book which sets out to review current theories and research in the field of humour is liable to merit the sort of groans usually reserved for outrageous puns at the punch-line of elephant jokes. Chapters entitled "Cognitive Aspects of Humour in Social Interaction: A Model and Some Linguistic Data" and "Superiority, Enhanced Self-esteem and Perceived Inequity: Evidence from Humour Theory" reinforce the feeling that when psychologists get the poems and belabour their cold, smooth hands on to contemporary laughter, we are all in for a memorandum or luncheonably witty time.

However, given the occasional environment of pompousness in high and solemn discourse. The selection of essays, backward from the perspective of Edward Thoma and a number of British-Locker-Lampson to North American exerts rarely neglected which ought to be a stimulating read and worth the effort of digging for an earth-shattering new link to Chomsky's discoveries and the fundamental nature of the nature of humour remains the equal section.

In all, about 80 pages at the beginning, the reader vented, and, as it is left with a clearer and more anonymous piece, a successful impression of what it is that the experts are up to when they involve themselves with such a subtle and amusing subject. There are almost as many theories of humour as there are Irish jokes, and almost as few that are convincing. Freud emphasized the "Long Vacation" to distinguish between the "irresistible" and the "aggressive" purpose, and innocent the "Dark Archer" in which the humour depends on the risk, and jokes in which the humorist depends on the risk, and jokes in which the humorist depends on the risk.

Anthony Clare

Discontinuous development

research and of the conflicts that may be occasionally encountered by the developmental researcher as scientist and as socially responsible citizen.

The first part of the book is written in plain and simple language, though at times the style is annoyingly repetitive. The issues presented for analysis are reductionist-mechanistic versus organismic-interpretable; development: genetic versus environmental; determinism of development and continuity versus discontinuity in developmental processes across the life-span. Dr Lerner openly acknowledges his own commitment to an organismic-interpretable position with the corollary that he believes that behaviour at higher levels of development (psycho-genetic and ontogenetic) cannot be explained in terms of the principles governing behaviour at lower levels. Development is therefore construed as discontinuous. An important distinction, however, is made between continuity versus discontinuity on the one hand and stability versus instability on the other. This, though different psychological structures may underlie the same

function at different levels of development, a given individual may show stability of performance with respect to a particular function at all developmental levels. Although the author's bias is evident, the arguments in this first section are sufficiently clearly presented to enable the critical reader to evaluate them for himself and arrive at his own conclusions. Also the same cannot be said for the second half. Here the formulations of major theorists (Piaget, Kohlberg, Freud, Erikson, Bloom and others) are presented in barest outline and the reader is left to his own devices to inform himself to the beginning student. Ironically, the only position at all inadequately portrayed in this section is that of learning theory, the very position which Lerner most vehemently wishes to reject.

As an introduction to the conceptual issues confronting the developmental psychologist Lerner's book has much to commend it but, as an account of developmental theory and research it leaves a great deal to be desired.

Harry McGurk

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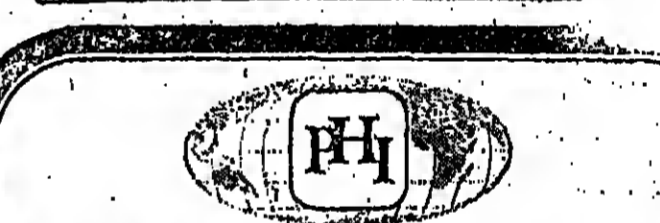
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